

**TOP LEFT, L to R:** Maria Dominici, House Republican Leader Lawrence Cafero, Margaret Bustell, Senate Majority Leader Martin Looney, Kristine Marino and Senator Bob Duff. Margaret, from Norwalk, and Maria, from Weston, are mothers of children on the autism spectrum who were victims of a fraudulent Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

# Senator Duff's Legislative Update

#### **Cracking Down on Phony Therapists**

This is shocking news. A woman is sentenced to three years in prison for lying about her qualifications to treat autistic children. She robbed these children of legitimate therapies. She also robbed schools and parents of more than \$600,000. This phony therapist was found guilty of larceny (theft of the money), but nothing more. Prior to SB 799, there was no state law to deter anyone from impersonating a certified behavior specialist.

A bill I co-authored with Senator Looney and Representative Cafero now calls for a prison sentence of up to five years and a fine of \$500 for each offense. This bill is moving through the legislative process with overwhelming and bipartisan support. I'm keeping my eye on it to make sure it becomes a law that will protect our families and schools.

#### The Rail Commute-It's All Good

The delays, the glitches, the setbacks and oh yes, the rhetoric, are all slowly fading into history. The first cars of a whole fleet of new M8 rail cars are up and running smoothly on the Metro North line. Some might miss the old clickity-clack down the railroad track, but I'm certain no one will miss the delays, the lack of heat in the winter and the lack of air conditioning in the summer.

Look for more and more of the new M8's to be added to the fleet in the weeks and months ahead. I'll continue to monitor the rollout of the new fleet, not only as vice chair of the Transportation Committee, but also as a representative of the thousands of my constituents who rely on Metro North to get to work and then back home at the end of each day.

## Keeping in Touch Has Never Been Easier

Our representative government relies on twoway communication between residents and their elected officials. It's important that I can share legislative news with you and get your input in the fastest and most efficient manner possible.

You've got to see my new Web site. The designers have really done a masterful job. It's well organized and easy on the eye. You can check out my social media links. You can peruse the RSS news feeds to catch up on the work I'm doing for you. You can even survey your district on the interactive Google map. Plus there are at least a half dozen ways for you to contact me.

www.twitter.com/senatorduff

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Bookmark the site and keep in touch!

www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov



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